Approved for Release: 2019/05/30 C03003601

Chrono

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ER 7-2158

20 July 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Inspector General

SUBJECT : Hoover Commission Recommendation on Science Attache Program

1. It is recommended that CIA comment regarding the above recommendation be along the following lines:

Recommendation 6 is unacceptable because it misinterprets the functions of State Department science attaches. The recommendation fails to take into account that the science attaches are Foreign Service Officers concerned with foreign relations, but rather focusses attention on the scientific intelligence function only. There is no more justification to the labeling of a science attache as an intelligence officer than there would be to blanket all Foreign Service Officers into the Intelligence Service. The science attache program is designed to provide the Secretary of State and the Chiefs of Mission abroad with authoritative advice on scientific matters as they relate to the conduct of foreign relations. The intelligence collecting and reporting function of the science attache is no more nor less than that of any other Foreign Service Officer. In lieu of recommendation 6, it is urged that the science program of the Department of State, including science attache activities, be augmented and strengthened as an integral part of the Department in viewof the increased importance of science as an element of foreign policy and of intelligence alike.

The fact that this recommendation was included in the text of the report made available to the public may well, unless corrective action is taken, seriously jeopardize the ability of the science attaches to perform their function, since foreign scientists with whom the attaches must deal are understandably reluctant to be associated with officials who have been advertised as representatives of U.S. intelligence. It is therefore recommended that the President, on the occasion of his public comment on the work of the Hoover Commission, include a statement along the following lines:

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"The science program of the Department of State, and the science attaches connected therewith, are part of our organization for conducting and managing the foreign affairs of the United States. The program was established following a comprehensive study of the problems of science as they affect foreign relations by a group of eminent scientists and government administrators headed by Dr. Lloyd Berkner. This study pointed up the impact of science and technology on international relations and the necessity for providing the Department of State with a qualified staff to advise the Secretary and the Chiefs of Mission abroad on matters scientific. Responsibility for administration of the science program is levied on the Undersecretary of State, and is not a part of the intelligence organization of the Department or, for that matter, of the U.S. Government. The Commission's recommendation that the science attache program be transferred from the Department of State to another agency appears to be based upon misunderstanding of the nature and purpose of its activity. Consequently, this recommendation will not be implemented."

2. The substance of the above comment has been informally reviewed by working level officials in the Departme[redacted] who are recommending similar comment by the Department.

(b)(3) CIAAct
(b)(6)

ROBERT AMORY, JR.
Deputy Director/Intelligence

OSI:TMNordbeck:mld:ga (11 Jul 55)
Rewritten ODDI:PWHowerton:jb (20 Jul 55)

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DDI-3012-0-1
DDI 5 1822

Approved for Release: 2019/05/30 C03003601